



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Division of Workers' Compensation - Medical Fee Dispute Resolution (MS-48)

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MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Requestor Name

Sentrix Pharmacy and Discount LLC

Respondent Name

Corpus Christi ISD

MFDR Tracking Number

M4-17-3186-01

Carrier's Austin Representative

Box Number 17

MFDR Date Received

June 30, 2017

REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY

Requestor's Position Summary: "Sentrix Pharmacy and Discount, LLC (the 'Pharmacy') requests payment for the services rendered to [injured employee] on 8/12/16. The service rendered was the filing and dispensing of prescription medication. The claim(s) in question were properly submitted pursuant to the Pharmaceutical Benefits rules codified in 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §134.500 through §134.550."

Amount in Dispute: \$2,488.99

RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY

Respondent's Position Summary: "Respondent maintains it's position in the denial that the compound medication required preauthorization because, compound medications constitute a new, non-approved and non-recognized drug and is considered investigational/experimental. The medication is not FDA approved, nor are ingredients being used in the manner for which the FDA originally approved the medications."

Response Submitted by: Downs Stanford PC

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
August 12, 2016	Pharmacy Services – Compound	\$2,488.99	\$2,488.99

FINDINGS AND DECISION

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and applicable rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

Background

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.502 sets out the procedures for pharmaceutical benefits.
3. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.503 sets out the fee guidelines for pharmaceutical services.
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.540 sets out the closed formulary requirements for claims subject to

certified networks.

5. Texas Insurance Code, Chapter 4201 provides requirements related to utilization review.
6. The insurance carrier reduced payment for the disputed services with the following claim adjustment codes:
 - 197 – Payment denied reduced for absence of precertification/preauthorization

Issues

1. Is the insurance carrier's reason for denial of payment supported?
2. Is Sentrix Pharmacy and Discount LLC (Sentrix) entitled to reimbursement of the disputed services?

Findings

1. Sentrix is seeking reimbursement of \$2,488.99 for a compound dispensed on August 12, 2016. Corpus Christi ISD denied the disputed service with claim adjustment reason code 197 – "Payment denied reduced for absence of precertification/authorization." 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.540(b) states that preauthorization is **only** required for:
 - (1) drugs identified with a status of "N" in the current edition of the *ODG Treatment in Workers' Comp* (ODG) / Appendix A, *ODG Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary*, and any updates;
 - (2) any compound that contains a drug identified with a status of "N" in the current edition of the *ODG Treatment in Workers' Comp* (ODG) / Appendix A, *ODG Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary*, and any updates; and
 - (3) any investigational or experimental drug for which there is early, developing scientific or clinical evidence demonstrating the potential efficacy of the treatment, but which is not yet broadly accepted as the prevailing standard of care as defined in Labor Code §413.014(a).

Provision §134.540(b)(1) preauthorization requirement is not discussed in this dispute because it was not asserted by either party in this dispute and is not applicable to the compound in question.

While not asserted by Corpus Christi ISD, Sentrix was not required to seek preauthorization pursuant to §134.540(b)(2) because none of the compounded ingredients have a status of "N" in the current edition of the ODG/Appendix A.

Downs Stanford PC, on behalf of Corpus Christi ISD, argued that "non-approved and non-recognized drug and is considered investigational/experimental."

The determination of a service's investigational or experimental nature is not subject to the *Official Disability Guidelines* (ODG). Instead, it is determined on a case by case basis as a utilization review pursuant to Texas Insurance Code §4201.002. Further, Texas Insurance Code §4201.002(13) states that utilization review, in relevant part, "includes a system for prospective, concurrent, or retrospective review to determine the experimental or investigational nature of health care services."

The division found **no evidence** that Corpus Christi ISD engaged in a prospective or retrospective utilization review (UR) as required by Texas Insurance Code §4201.002 in order to establish that the following compound is investigational or experimental in nature:

Compound Cream in Dispute	
Ingredient	Amount
Salt Stable LS Base	170.40 gm
Baclofen	9.60 gm
Amantadine	19.20 gm
Amitriptyline	4.80 gm
Gabapentin	12.0 gm
Ketoprofen	24.00 gm

Because Corpus Christi ISD failed to perform UR on the above listed compound, the requirement for preauthorization under §134.540(b)(2) is **not triggered** in this case. Corpus Christi ISD preauthorization denial is therefore not supported.

Absent any evidence that Corpus Christi ISD presented other defenses to Corpus Christi ISD before medical fee dispute resolution that conform with the requirements of Title 28, Part 2, Chapter 133, Subchapter C, the division finds that the compounds in question are eligible for reimbursement.

2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.503 applies to the services in dispute and states, in pertinent part:

- (c) The insurance carrier shall reimburse the health care provider or pharmacy processing agent for prescription drugs the lesser of:
 - (1) the fee established by the following formulas based on the average wholesale price (AWP) as reported by a nationally recognized pharmaceutical price guide or other publication of pharmaceutical pricing data in effect on the day the prescription drug is dispensed:
 - (A) Generic drugs: $((\text{AWP per unit}) \times (\text{number of units}) \times 1.25) + \4.00 dispensing fee per prescription = reimbursement amount;
 - (B) Brand name drugs: $((\text{AWP per unit}) \times (\text{number of units}) \times 1.09) + \4.00 dispensing fee per prescription = reimbursement amount;
 - (C) When compounding, a single compounding fee of \$15 per prescription shall be added to the calculated total for either paragraph (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection; or
 - (2) notwithstanding §133.20(e)(1) of this title (relating to Medical Bill Submission by Health Care Provider), the amount billed to the insurance carrier by the:
 - (A) health care provider; or
 - (B) pharmacy processing agent only if the health care provider has not previously billed the insurance carrier for the prescription drug and the pharmacy processing agent is billing on behalf of the health care provider.

The compounds in dispute were billed by listing each drug included in the compound and calculating the charge for each drug separately as required by 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.502(d)(2).

Reimbursement is calculated as follows:

Ingredient	NDC & Type	Price/Unit	Total Units	AWP Formula §134.503(c)(1)	Billed Amt §134.503 (c)(2)	Lesser of (c)(1) and (c)(2)
Salt Stable LS Base	00395602157 Brand	\$3.36	170.4 gm	$\$3.36 \times 170.4 \times 1.09 = \624.07	\$572.47	\$572.47
Baclofen	38779038808 Generic	\$35.63	9.6 gm	$\$35.63 \times 9.6 \times 1.25 = \427.56	\$341.99	\$341.99
Amantadine	38779041109 Generic	\$24.23	19.2 gm	$\$24.23 \times 19.2 \times 1.25 = \581.40	\$465.19	\$465.19
Amitriptyline	58597800308 Generic	\$19.15	4.8 gm	$\$19.15 \times 4.8 \times 1.25 = \114.90	\$91.84	\$91.84
Gabapentin	58597801407 Generic	\$62.84	12.0 gm	$\$62.84 \times 12.0 \times 1.25 = \942.60	\$754.16	\$754.16
Ketoprofen	58597801707 Generic	\$10.97	24.00 gm	$\$10.97 \times 24 \times 1.25 = \329.10	\$263.34	\$263.34
					Total	\$2,488.99

The total allowable reimbursement for the compound in dispute is \$2,488.99. This amount is recommended.

Conclusion

The outcome of this medical fee dispute relied upon the evidence presented by the requestor and the respondent at the time of adjudication. Though all the evidence may not have been discussed, it was considered. For the reasons stated above, the division finds that the requestor has established that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$2,488.99.

ORDER

Based on the submitted information, pursuant to Texas Labor Code Section 413.031 and 413.019 (if applicable), the division has determined the requestor is entitled to additional reimbursement for the disputed services. The division hereby ORDERS the respondent to remit to the requestor \$2,488.99, plus applicable accrued interest per 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.130, due within 30 days of receipt of this order.

Authorized Signature

_____	_____	12/14/2017
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to seek review of this decision in accordance with Rule §133.307, effective May 31, 2012, *37 Texas Register 3833*, **applicable to disputes filed on or after June 1, 2012.**

A party seeking review must submit a **Request to Schedule a Benefit Review Conference to Appeal a Medical Fee Dispute Decision** (form **DWC045M**) in accordance with the instructions on the form. The request must be received by the division within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. The request may be faxed, mailed or personally delivered to the division using the contact information listed on the form or to the field office handling the claim.

The party seeking review of the MFDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §141.1(d).

Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.